



*Office of Public Affairs
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U.S.EMBASSY SUPPORTS ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK

Prominent American Muslim, Tayyibah Taylor, will speak to hundreds of New Zealand school children about Muslim Youth in America as part of NZ Islam Awareness Week 2007.

Ms. Taylor is the founder, publisher and editor-in-chief of a quarterly glossy magazine that she says is committed to being more than a magazine. *AZIZAH* presents the issues, the accomplishments and the interests of the contemporary Muslim woman.

“It’s a catalyst for empowerment. *AZIZAH* is a vehicle that allows Muslim women to portray themselves from their own perspectives and to shatter stereotypes,” she says. “It is a unique publication that strives to connect Muslim women in North America while presenting a forum for their voices.”

Taylor has also presented lectures on Islam and Muslim women at a variety of national and international conferences and has worked on several interfaith programs that have seen her travel to Turkey, Spain, Morocco, Jerusalem, and Greece with various groups of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

“The New Zealand Islamic community’s initiative to reach out and help others understand their faith is a splendid project. We are very pleased to be able to support their endeavors by sponsoring the visit of an American who shares their faith,” said U.S. Ambassador Bill McCormick.

“There are up to 8 million Muslim Americans drawn from a variety of heritages. Islam is a peaceful, beautiful faith and provides a vibrant thread in America’s cultural tapestry,” he added.

Islamic Awareness Week begins next week. Tayyibah Taylor and New Zealand’s Minister of Ethnic Affairs Chris Carter will visit two mosques in the run-up to, and during, Islamic Awareness Week.